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(GAS CONVENTION)

LOS ANGELES--ALLEN DULLES, FORMER CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY DIRECTOR, TODAY DEFENDED ACTIVITIES OF THE GROUP IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND SAID IT HAS NEVER "CUT ACROSS" STATE DEPARTMENT POLICY.

DULLES, SPEAKING AT THE FINAL SESSION OF A FOUR-DAY JOINT CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN GAS ASSOCIATION AND THE PACIFIC COAST GAS ASSOCIATION, SAID FALSE CHARGES HAVE BEEN MADE THAT THE CIA SET POLICY ON AMERICAN MILITARY AID TO SOUTH VIETNAM. HE DID NOT GIVE A SOURCE OF THE CHARGES.

HE SAID THERE HAS BEEN "MISCHIEVOUS PUBLICITY" IN THE VIETNAM SITUATION AND ADDED:

"THE PRESIDENT HAS FLATLY DENIED THESE RUMORS AND EXONERATED AND PRAISED THE CIA WORK IN SOUTH VIETNAM. HOWEVER, MUCH HARM HAS BEEN DONE."

IN THE FINAL CONVENTION BUSINESS SESSION, ED PARKS, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED GAS CORP. OF SHREVEPORT, LA., WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN GAS ASSOCIATION.

10/16--EGS30PED

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